

Michael H. Brannon, M.D.  
7 Foxglove Court  
Greenville, SC 29615-5505

January 5, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I want to express how happy I am to hear that the Department of Justice has ended its antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft with a strong agreement. Microsoft has been a leader in technology and innovation for at least the past decade, and I see no reason for the federal government to punish them for that. America's economy was founded upon the competitive free enterprise system. Government involvement in the day-to-day workings of a company completely undermines this country's economic foundation.

The agreement calls for Microsoft to document and disclose for use by its competitors various interfaces that are internal to Windows' operating system products - a first in an antitrust settlement. Microsoft has also agreed to design future versions of Windows to provide a mechanism to make it easy for computer makers, consumers and software developers to promote non-Microsoft software within Windows. The mechanism will make it easy to add or remove access to features built in to Windows or to non-Microsoft software. Consumers will have the freedom to choose to change their configuration at any time.

Enough is enough. What more could Microsoft's competitors want? My hope is that the federal government takes no further action against Microsoft beyond this agreement, so that it can work to tackle the truly pressing issues of the day.

Sincerely,



Michael H. Brannon, M.D.

cc: Senator Strom Thurmond